



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HOLIDAY AND SNOW STORM CAUSE DELAY IN WASTE SERVICE
Waste Management Aims to Catch Up by End of Week

January 2, 2007, Rio Rancho, NM: As a result of the New Year's holiday and last week's snow storm, trash and recycling collection in the central part of New Mexico serviced by Waste Management has fallen up to three days behind schedule. However, Waste Management of New Mexico aims to be caught up in two to three days and is making every effort to be completely caught up by the end of the week.

"We apologize for the delay in trash and recycling pick-up and ask that our customers continue to be patient as we work diligently to catch up," said Rick Ahumada, District Manager of WM New Mexico. "We realize that delays in trash collection can create difficulties for our customers. Our employees are working as quickly and safely as they can."

Muddy and icy roads are making trash collection particularly difficult in parts of the region. The trucks, which weigh over 25 tons, are unable to safely navigate some streets. "We do not want to endanger our drivers or residents by attempting to travel into areas that are not yet safe for our trucks to maneuver in," says Ahumada.

According to Ahumada, in addition to the snow storm, the delays are compounded by the modified holiday collection schedule that was in place for the New Year's holiday and the increased volume of trash caused by the holidays. The EPA estimates that customers throw away 25% more trash during the holidays than at any other time.

To assist with the collection, Waste Management asks that customers leave their trash and recycling carts curbside until their neighborhoods have been serviced, and make the carts accessible for drivers by clearing snow banks that would block trucks from getting close enough to extend their mechanical arms.

The Waste Management Customer Service Center is responding to residents' concerns, but is also experiencing delayed response times due to a high volume of calls. Additional information on the current situation is available on the Waste Management of New Mexico Website at <http://newmexico.wm.com>. Click on "Local Service" and then "Rio Rancho."

Waste Management also wants to remind residents that it does not collect Christmas trees curbside. In the City of Rio Rancho residents can drop-off trees at the City-sponsored Christmas tree recycling station set up in the far west parking lot of the Rio Rancho Sports Complex, located at 3501 High Resort Blvd. Trees will be mulched and free mulch will be provided to Rio Rancho residents on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please call 505-896-8729.

Waste Management is the leading provider of comprehensive waste and environmental services in North America. For more information about how we think green, log onto www.wm.com.